

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 17, 2011

Session 11-10, a Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Chair Bumpo Bremicker at 5:38 p.m. on November 17, 2011 at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers located at 491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska.

**PRESENT:** COMMISSIONERS CUMMING, BRANN, ARCHIBALD AND BREMICKER

**ABSENT:** COMMISSIONER LILLIBRIDGE (EXCUSED)

**STAFF:** DEPUTY CITY CLERK I RENEE KRAUSE

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Chair Bremicker requested a motion to approve the agenda.

ARCHIBALD/BRANN – MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA.

BREMICKER/BRANN – MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO MOVE THE HOPP REPORT UNDER VISITORS.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. (Amendment) YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VOTE. (Main) YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** (*Minutes are approved during Regular Meetings.*)

A. Meeting Minutes for the October 20, 2011 Regular Meeting

Chair Bremicker requested a motion to approve the minutes from the October meeting.

ARCHIBALD/BRANN - MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED.

There was no discussion.

VOTE. YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no comments from the public present.

**VISITORS**

A. Miranda Weiss, City Resident and Co-Chair of Community Group HoPP (Homer Playground Project)

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Ms. Weiss gave a summary of the actions performed to date by the HoPP group. She provided the Commissioners with an updated design of the proposed playground.

The following was noted as changes:

1. Scaled playground back
2. Added a covered playground that will have room for 6 picnic tables.
3. The boardwalk ramp was cut back to one turn to the proposed tower.
4. A Seasonal hand operated water feature for kids to play with created with natural materials.

Points made were that the existing yellow fencing would be removed; a Large grassy area perfect for impromptu games of soccer, etc. would be created and multiple ADA accessible routes to the playground and picnic areas.

Ms. Weiss announced that build week is planned for the week of May 21, 2012. They have raised a bit over \$30,000 to date with programs in the works to raise more funding. They have the advantage of a new resident who was the former head playground maintenance person for a playground in Juneau designed by the same people. They have accumulated over 200 names of persons that are interested in this project. She noted that they do not have a grant writer at this time.

Commissioner Brann offered to pass along any information regarding grants that he feels may be applicable to the group and the project. A discussion ensued on the revised drawings for the following:

1. Covered walkways
2. Price breakdown
3. Prohibitive devices to prevent cars driving on various areas.
4. Removal of the Red Shed.
5. Addressing security issues at the park and playground.

Ms. Weiss requested the Commissioners forward a recommendation of support for the project to Council at the January meeting. The Clerk confirmed that there were three options available that the Commission could use to express support of the proposed project. The strongest is a resolution and the reasons(wheras') why Council should support the project is needed. Mrs. Weiss stated she could provide that information to Staff.

There were no further discussion.

## **RECONSIDERATION**

There were no items scheduled for reconsideration.

## **STAFF AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMITTEE REPORTS/BOROUGH REPORTS**

A. Parks & Campgrounds Report – Angie Otteson

There was no report this meeting. Ms. Otteson was not in attendance.

B. Community Schools and Recreation Report – Mike Illg

There was no report this meeting. Mr. Illg was absent.

C. Staff Report – Renee Krause

Ms. Krause reported that there will be some changes in the way the minutes will be written regarding the format and content. She advised the commissioners that there is no regular meeting in December and that is why she advised Ms. Weiss to request being on the January agenda. There was a brief discussion on the council decision on the Resolution 11-90 regarding the Kachemak Drive proposed path.

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Staff explained the process and stated that the Commissioners could request the resolution be remanded back to the committee in response to a question posed by Commissioner Brann. Chair Bremicker commented that he believed this was getting into a more of a strategy discussion which should be held during the next committee meeting.

There was no further discussion.

D. Spit Parks and Recreation Committee  
1. Synopsis of the November 3, 2011 Meeting

Commissioner Archibald commented that they did meet and he would be glad to answer any questions.

Chair Bremicker inquired about the status of a Resolution to City Council regarding the recommendation to relocate the entrance to Mariner Park and changing the speed limit for that approach. He was sure that this was addressed at a previous meeting of the commission.

Staff will look into the status of that recommendation from the Commission. She explained the process to the best of her knowledge.

Further discussion by the commissioners included the following:

- Safety issues regarding the existing entrance location
- the ease of relocating the entrance closer to the base of the spit nearer the lagoon
- who would be involved in the reduction of the speed limit and relocation of the entrance

UPDATE: Further research has indicated that the Commission approved a motion to recommend staff research and provide information at the January meeting on these topics. They did not submit a recommendation to council at the October meeting.

There was no further discussion.

Commissioner Archibald reviewed the surveys received commenting on the highest concern represented by respondents; he noted a lengthy discussion with Mr. Illg regarding a needs assessment survey; and holding a meet the trucks event at Mariner Park.

E. Karen Hornaday Park Committee and HoPP Report

Commissioner Archibald reported that Mr. Meyer was present for the meeting and will have the preliminary costs associated with the road realignment by the end of November; Ms. Cumming was a scheduled visitor and provided a PowerPoint presentation on information compiled and previously submitted by the friends of Woodard Creek; he noted that a discussion was entertained on the removal of the red shed at the park; and HoPP provided the same report that was given tonight. He reported additional agenda items discussed were the Adopt a Park Program, getting the main gate issues addressed by Public Works in the spring, safety concerns with the proposed improvements, annual clean up days in spring and fall.

Discussion on potential funding requests from HoPP and that the committee did approve a recommendation to support the HoPP plan for playground improvement only, no financial support which would be forwarded to the commission in the near future and safety issues ensued.

Commissioner Archibald commented that he would be checking with the Homer Police Department to get their recommendations and will look forward to getting the cost estimate from Mr. Meyer at the end of the month. He noted that something will have to be done to offer better security for facilities and visitors.

There was no further discussion.

F. Kachemak Drive Path Committee Report

Chair Bremicker reported on the progress of the committee during the last month. He stated that they had a visitor at the most recent meeting, Lynn Whitmore who represents the Moose Habitat and were concerned what the committee was proposing and what the design would be through the property. Chair Bremicker stated that the information and advice that the committee received from Mr. Whitmore who is experienced with the different state agencies was very helpful and especially the best types of paths to put through that property that will not deter or hamper a moose passage through the area.

It was noted that the committee made progress on defining the proposed path and where it should be located along Kachemak Drive. They have received very helpful advice and efforts from Kevin Walker also. An option that was discussed was to use an established easement for a road that goes from East End Road in front of Redden Marine to Kachemak Drive. The committee has reached consensus on the proposed location and the next steps will be the design cross sections and funding.

The members of the committee responded to questions from the commission on portions at the easterly end of the proposed path and connection to the beach access.

The committee will have a meeting on November 22, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

There was no further discussion.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

No public hearings were scheduled.

**PENDING BUSINESS**

A. Transient Camping Along Trails in City Limits – Discussion and Recommendations

Chair Bremicker opened discussion by asking clarification on the Staff recommendation.

A lengthy discussion covered the following topics:

- offering a place where someone could camp for free for a limited time
- to prevent garbage and debris being left behind from transient campers

It was noted that the information provided by Ms. Krause did contain several simple suggestions such as clearing brush and shrubbery to make the problem areas more open to visual inspection, bring problems to the attention of local police enforcement, etc. It was discussed in depth that the police department needs to respond and react to complaints that are filed by residents. This is an issue that affects all areas of trails and the like. Including advertisement or notice encouraging reporting incidents of unlawful camping in a resolution forwarded to council.

BRANN/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO DIRECT STAFF TO SEND A MEMORANDUM TO THE HOMER POLICE CHIEF MARK ROBL THROUGH THE CITY MANAGER WALT WREDE TO ENFORCE CITY CODE, 19.08.030 AND 19.08.070 AS APPLICABLE TO THE AREAS NOTED FOR TRANSIENT CAMPERS AND THE ASSOCIATIVE PROBLEMS AND TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE PROHIBITING CAMPING.

There was a brief discussion.

BREMICKER/BRANN - MOVED TO OFFER FRIENDLY AMENDMENT, AND TO ISSUE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS ENCOURAGING RESIDENTS TO REPORT ILLEGAL CAMPING TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND MAKING SURE OFFICERS FOLLOW-UP ON THE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

VOTE. (AMEND) YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

VOTE. (MAIN) YES. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

There was no further discussion.

B. Discussion and Recommendation to Request Update on Costs, Plans, or Alternatives to Relocation of the Roadway into Karen Hornaday Park from City Personnel

Commissioner Cumming reported on her presentation at the Karen Hornaday Park Committee. The following points she made were as follows:

- comments and opinions from Friends of Woodard Creek
- concern regarding a memorandum issued by the city to the state legislature to obtain the \$250,000 grant
- the city funding any additional request from HoPP

Commissioner Cumming read an email from Ralph Broshes into the record and then listed the names of the others who submitted additional emails that were similar in content.

Commissioner Cumming proceeded to comment on the results and discussions held during the most recent Karen Hornaday Park Committee. She felt that the city has no intention on realigning the road into the Park and that they intend to just nickel and dime the monies away.

Chair Bremicker inquired if there was a specific recommendation Ms. Cumming would like the Commission to make to council.

Commissioner Cumming reported that she would like the commission to submit a request to the City to present a detailed cost analysis to move the road over, and to include water and sewer and if the city is not going to relocate the road then the city should take monies out of the \$250,000 to construct a trail along Woodard Creek, this is not the first choice but a good alternate.

She believes that the city is dragging its feet two years after the city council approved the master plan. She opined that many of the adopted pages never received approval and recommendation from the commission either and it is her belief that the commission should have been consulted.

Chair Bremicker stated that the only option the commission had was to forward a recommendation to city council to direct personnel to start working on the road realignment. Reminding them that the commission is advisory in nature only. The City Council has the ultimate authority no matter what they think.

There was further comments and discussion on the history of the road realignment discussion as a whole and previous comments and price estimates. It was noted again that this commission did recommend and council approved a resolution on getting the preliminary engineering done, plus the ball field improvements, playground improvements, drainage, etc. it was noted also that Mr. Meyer had reported to the park committee that he would have the estimate at the end of November.

It was questioned that once they have received the costs to relocate that road what was the next steps that the commission would take, what if the cost was \$1,000,000? What would they do then? The biggest concern with some of the commissioners was the safety factor and squandering more money.

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It was further discussed that an assessment of what needs to be done, what can the public provide and once they get those costs then they can always get a second opinion if needed, before decisions are made. If the figures are too high then they have to revisit and determine what they need to do.

Commissioner Brann offered some additional temporary measures but did state he would vote to use some of the funds if nothing else has been done in a few years or five.

Chair Bremicker repeatedly assured Commissioner Cumming that at this time there is no intention to give the HoPP any more monies.

Additional discussion was entertained on the intentions of the City Administration and Public Works personnel. Commissioners voiced their dismay on the lack of concern on the non-progress in getting things moving at the park, to remove the old and replaced with new, solving safety issues.

BREMICKER/ARCHIBALD - MOVED TO SUBMIT ANOTHER MEMORANDUM TO THE PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR REQUESTING THE COST ANALYSIS ON RELOCATING THE ROAD INTO THE PARK BY THE END OF THE MONTH.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. CUMMING, BRANN, ARCHIBALD, BREMICKER.

Motion carried.

Chair Bremicker recessed the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 8:09 p.m.

C. Discussion and Recommendation to Review and Prioritize the Needs of Karen Hornaday Park

There was a brief discussion on prioritizing the needs for the park. The commissioners quickly reviewed the Phase I of the Master Plan. Staff pointed out that the recommendation was included in Ordinance 11-22 allocating the funds in June. It was determined that this is what will be done and the priority listing could not be changed by personnel.

Staff will have copies available for the commissioners if they wanted one.

There was further discussion on whether the City will do what was adopted and that certain things did not go through the commission, decisions were made by city staff, and the Mayor.

There was no further discussion.

D. Discussion and Recommendation to Submit Application for the Soil & Water Conservation District Grant for 2011. *(This item was postponed from the October meeting.)*

Commissioner Archibald called and spoke to a representative today and that this grant will not be available until Fall 2012. Information can be found at State of Alaska website, Department of Natural Resources.

Commissioner Brann inquired as to the point of applying for this grant and what was it to be used for if they received it? Mr. Archibald responded that this is a matching grant used for outdoor recreation and there are some pretty stiff stipulations. He briefly explained why this grant was applied for the last time.

The commissioners agreed to submit a recommendation to staff to submit a request to the person hired to fill the Economic Development Coordinator position.

There was no further discussion.

- E. Review and Updating the Strategic Plan for 2011-12 (*This item was postponed from October meeting.*)

The commission agreed by consensus to set a special meeting on December 8, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. to address this item.

There was no further discussion.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Discussion and Recommendations on a New Park – City Hall Pocket Park

Chair Bremicker recommended that they could establish it as a pocket park, but installation of a bench is all he could see being there. Commissioner Archibald wanted the consideration of maintenance addressed before taking on an additional park. Commissioner Cumming suggesting selling that parcel and using the proceeds for another park. There was a comment that the current resident may be interested in purchasing that space.

Commissioner Brann recommended postponing this item until Wayne Aderhold was able to be present to comment, verifying it is city owned property and if so, it would be perfect for the adopt a park program.

There was consensus from the Commission that this item should be postponed to the January meeting to allow Mr. Aderhold to attend. Commissioner Brann will contact him. Staff was directed to verify ownership of the parcel in question.

- B. Approval of the 2012 Meeting Schedule

BRANN/CUMMING - MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.

There was a brief discussion.

VOTE. YES. BRANN, ARCHIBALD, BREMICKER, CUMMING.

Motion carried.

### **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS**

- A. Kachemak Bay Water Trail – Email from City Manager Wrede dated November 8, 2011

Dave Brann explained the reason behind this email and the unintended furor that misinformation caused with certain members of city council.

There was no further discussion.

- B. Memorandum to Mayor Hornaday and City Council Re: Vaulted Toilets at Mariner Park

There was no further discussion.

### **COMMENTS OF THE AUDIENCE**

There was no audience present.

**COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL MEMBER** (if one is assigned)

None.

**COMMENTS OF STAFF MEMBERS**

There were no comments from staff.

**COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION**

There were no comments from the commission.

**COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Bremicker requested that elections be on the January agenda.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the Commission Chair Bremicker adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m. The next regular meeting is THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. There will be a SPECIAL MEETING on DECEMBER 8, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at the City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

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RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK I

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Approved: